



MEDIA RELEASE

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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SUBJECT: Wild Fire Season Officially Begins April 1st

The Alaska wildfire season officially begins on April 1st each year. Accordingly, the State of Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) is notifying the public that burning permits are required for most areas for open burning of brush, grass, slash, and yard debris.

Fire Management Officer, Tom Marok, reminds residents, "Although many areas still have snow cover, it's important to understand that nearly all early-season wildfires on the Kenai Peninsula burn around patches of snow, catching people off guard. Cured, dry grass becomes ignitable within a day when exposed to sun and wind. Therefore, as the snow begins to melt, fire awareness should elevate."

Ongoing slash burning must be permitted if piles are still burning after April 1st. Don't expect that burn piles have gone out on their own. Ash pits should be opened up and mixed to ensure that no residual burning embers remain that could flare up and ignite surrounding vegetation.

Permits for small burning are available on-line at www.forestry.alaska.gov/fire/burnpermits.htm. Large burns require an inspection by DOF prior to permitting. To locate your regional office visit the DOF's web site at: www.forestry.alaska.gov/divdir.htm.

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